

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 205978  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:JTWINAM:SEB:TEXT FROM WHITE HOUSE  
APPROVED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES  
S/S-O:TMARTIN

-----094125 150305Z /15

O 160212Z YUG 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY DOHA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 205978

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PPDC, QA, US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL LETTER TO QATARI AMIR

1. EMBASSY SHOULD DELIVER SOONEST FOLLOWING LETTER FROM  
PRESIDENT TO QATARI AMIR AL-THANI. THERE WILL BE NO  
SIGNED ORIGINAL.

2. BEGIN TEXT: "YOUR HIGHNESS: I WISH TO SHARE WITH YOU  
SOME THOUGHTS ON THE FORTHCOMING MIDDLE EAST MEETING AT  
CAMP DAVID.

WE ARE GRATIFIED THAT PRIME MINISTER BEGIN AND PRESIDENT  
SADAT HAVE BOTH RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO THE INVITATION  
TO MEET WITH ME NEXT MONTH IN A MAJOR NEW EFFORT TO  
ESTABLISH A FRAMEWORK FOR A MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT.  
WE HAVE PURPOSELY NOT SET A FIXED DURATION FOR THE TALKS,  
SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 6, SO AS TO BE ABLE TO  
ALLOW AS MUCH TIME AS IS NEEDED FOR OUR EFFORTS TO  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 205978

SUCCEED. THIS IS AN ENCOURAGING INDICATION OF THE  
SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH ALL PARTIES ARE APPROACHING THIS  
MEETING.

I EXTENDED THIS INVITATION BECAUSE I BELIEVE WE HAVE  
REACHED A CRUCIAL POINT IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACE IN THE

MIDDLE EAST. NINE MONTHS HAVE PASSED SINCE PRESIDENT SADAT AND PRIME MINISTER BEGIN OPENED SIGNIFICANT NEW POSSIBILITIES FOR NEGOTIATING WITH THE HISTORIC MEETINGS IN JERUSALEM AND IN ISMAILIA. THE SIDES HAVE MADE PROGRESS TOWARD RESOLVING SOME OF THE ISSUES THAT DIVIDE THEM AT THIS TIME, BUT RECENTLY, AS YOU ARE AWARE, AN IMPASSE WAS THREATENED. I AM CONVINCED THAT WE CANNOT AFFORD AN IMPASSE, SINCE THE POSITIONS WOULD THEN HARDEN AND THE ATMOSPHERE DETERIORATE TO THE POINT WHERE THE PRESENT OPPORTUNITY FOR PEACE COULD WELL BECOME ANOTHER OF THE LOST OPPORTUNITIES THAT HAVE MARKED THE HISTORY OF THIS TRAGIC CONFLICT.

THE OBJECTIVE AT THE CAMP DAVID MEETING WILL REMAIN AS IT HAS BEEN DEFINED BY THE TWO SIDES THEMSELVES IN NEGOTIATIONS THIS YEAR: TO MAKE PROGRESS TOWARD AN AGREEMENT ON A FRAMEWORK, BASED ON SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242, THAT WOULD ALLOW STEADY PROGRESS TOWARD AGREEMENT ON SPECIFIC ISSUES, WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE AGREED GOAL OF A STABLE, JUST AND COMPREHENSIVE PEACE. SUCH AN AGREED FRAMEWORK MIGHT HELP TO BRING OTHER PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT INTO THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

OUR EXPERIENCE IN ATTEMPTING TO FACILITATE AND PROMOTE NEGOTIATIONS THIS PAST YEAR HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO CARRY NEGOTIATIONS BEYOND A CERTAIN POINT ON THE CRUCIAL ISSUES UNLESS THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 205978

THEMSELVES CAN BE ENGAGED IN A DIRECT EXCHANGE. THIS WAS ONE OF THE CONSIDERATIONS THAT LED ME TO THE DECISION TO EXTEND INVITATIONS TO THE TWO LEADERS TO MEET WITH ME AT CAMP DAVID. OUR OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENTS AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL WHICH CAN PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR THE NEGOTIATORS ON THE KEY ISSUES. I PLAN TO DO EVERYTHING WITHIN MY POWER TO HELP PRESIDENT SADAT AND PRIME MINISTER BEGIN ACHIEVE THE PROGRESS FOR WHICH WE ARE ALL SEARCHING.

AS WE MOVE INTO THIS CRUCIAL NEW PHASE OF MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS I WANTED TO SHARE WITH YOU MY REASONS FOR TAKING THIS STEP AND THOUGHTS ABOUT WHAT WE HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH. I KNOW YOU WILL AGREE WITH MY SENSE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE TALKS, WHICH HOLD THE PROSPECT OF A MAJOR STEP FORWARD, DESPITE THE REAL DIFFICULTIES. I HOPE THAT I CAN COUNT ON YOU FOR UNDERSTANDING AND FULL SUPPORT IN THE TASK ON WHICH WE ARE EMBARKING.

WITH MY BEST WISHES,

SINCERELY,

JIMMY CARTER." END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* EXDIS

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* SECRET

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, PEACE TALKS, SUMMIT MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE205978  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** JTWINAM:SEB:TEXT FROM WHITE HOUSE  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780332-1174  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:**  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t197808115/aaaafngj.tel  
**Line Count:** 123  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE  
**Message ID:** 2cc1f759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 30 jun 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1583769  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> jms 970825  
**Subject:** PRESIDENTIAL LETTER TO QATARI AMIR  
**TAGS:** PDEV, PPDC, EG, IS, QA, US  
**To:** DOHA  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/2cc1f759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014